

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/734,977

Examiner

Mr. Terry K. Cecil

Applicant(s)

MEDDOCK ET AL.

Art Unit

1723

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the IDS of 2-17-2006 and the telephonic interview of 5-25-2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-4 respectively renumbered upon allowance as claims 1-2, 4 and 3.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☒ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date 2-17-2006
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date attached.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

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Note: Claims 1-4 are allowed and have been respectively renumbered upon allowance as claims 1-2, 4 and 3.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Rabiya S. Kader on 5-25-2006.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

- Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

—1. ~~What is claimed is a~~ A combination filter for removing particulate matter from engine oil, comprising: a canister, a full flow filter, a bypass filter, a plurality of engine oil inlets, a full flow filter outlet, a bypass filter outlet, and an engine mounting means,

~~The~~ the canister comprises a roughly cylindrical shape, closed at one end and open at the ~~other~~ a second end, the canister closed end possessing a single opening through which the bypass filter outlet passes, the canister open end possessing a plurality of engine oil inlets and an engine mounting means,

~~The~~ the full flow filter comprising a cylindrical tube that fits inside the canister, an outer circumferential area existing between the outside of the full flow filter and the inside wall of the canister, the full flow filter sealed to the open end of the canister with gaskets such that oil may enter the open end of the canister and must flow into the outer circumferential area, the full flow

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filter made of porous material such that oil must flow through the full flow filter from the outer circumferential area through the full flow filter into a transition space,

the bypass filter comprising a cylindrical tube smaller in diameter than the full flow filter placed coaxially within the full flow filter in the transition space, the bypass filter sealed at each end of the tube such that oil may pass circumferentially from the transition space through the bypass filter into a bypass collection space, the majority of oil in the transition space exiting the transition space through a full flow filter outlet in the open end of the canister, the full flow filter outlet opening passing through the engine mounting means,

~~The~~ the bypass filter possessing a metal cap with a plurality of blades at the end of the bypass filter closest to the canister open end, the metal cap positioned such that if the bypass filter moves towards the canister open end the metal cap will prevent the bypass filter from plugging the full flow filter outlet,

~~The~~ the engine mounting means comprising a ~~standard~~ screw-thread connector that fits internal combustion engine oil filter mounts,

the bypass collection space connected via a bypass return orifice to the bypass filter outlet, the bypass return orifice comprising a narrow tube of metal, the bypass return orifice being one (1) millimeter in width,

the bypass filter outlet capable of being connected via ~~industry-standard~~ connectors to a hose which can be lead to any engine oil destination on a ~~standard~~ internal combustion engine,

the oil output of the bypass filter through the bypass filter outlet being a measurable amount which is a function of the amount of oil introduced at the engine oil inlets through a range of engine oil pressures from 5 pounds per square inch to 100 pounds per square inch,

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the oil output from the bypass filter through the bypass filter outlet never ~~mixed~~ mixes with the oil from the full pass filter until the oil from the bypass filter outlet is returned to the engine at a point other than the engine mounting means.—

- Claim 2, line 12, “The” has been replaced with —the—.
- Claim 4, line 3, after “fiber” a —.— has been added.

Required Drawing Changes

3. The following changes to the drawings have been approved by the examiner and agreed upon by applicant: Formal drawings will be submitted that include the missing reference nos. “146”, “147”, “150” and “152”. In order to avoid abandonment of the application, applicant must make these above agreed upon drawing changes.

Reasons for Allowance

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
- The closest cited art—Brown et al. (U.S. 5,342,511)—fails to anticipate or render obvious, alone or in any proper combination, the metal cap with a plurality of blades at the end of the bypass filter closest to the canister open end and positioned such that if the bypass filter moves towards the canister open end the metal cap will prevent the bypass filter from plugging the full flow filter outlet, and the bypass outlet and main outlet being at opposite ends of the canister—within the combination of elements of claim 1.


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Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee.

Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contact Information:

- Examiner Mr. Terry K. Cecil can be reached at (571) 272-1138 at the Carlisle campus in Alexandria, Virginia for any inquiries concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner. Note that the examiner is on the increased flextime schedule but can normally be found in the office during the hours of 8:30a to 4:30p, on at least four days during the week M-F.
- Wanda Walker, the examiner's supervisor, can be reached at (571) 272-1151 if attempts to reach the examiner are unsuccessful.
- The Fax number for this art unit for official faxes is (571) 273-8300.
- Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Mr. Terry K. Cecil
Primary Examiner
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TKC
May 25, 2006